

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2171

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

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AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: REGIONAL FFP COORDINATOR VISIT TO MALI, FEB 10-16

1. SINCE IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN REGULAR OR CHARTER AIRCRAFT FOR VISIT TO VI REGION, RFFPC VISITED STORAGE FACILITIES IN BAMAKO, SEGOU, AND MOPTI. ALSO DISCUSSED OVERALL GRAIN SITUATION WITH COULIBALY (OFFICE DES PRODUITS AGRICOLES DU MALI - OPAM DIRECTOR GENERAL).

2. AT SEGOU VISITED VARIOUS STORAGE AREAS (OPAM, NIGER RIVER TRANSPORT COMPANY, SEGOU AIRPORT, SEGOU MARKET) WHICH TOGETHER REPORTEDLY HELD ABOUT 5,000 M/T OF SORGHUM, CORN AND RICE FROM US, CANADA, FRANCE AND CHINA. SOME OF THE STOCKS WERE SIX MONTHS OLD AND SPOT CHECKS REVEALED SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION IN SOME CASES. GOM ESTIMATES THAT IN ENTIRE SEGOU REGION (AS OPPOSED TO SEGOU CITY) ABOUT 12,000 M/T OF GRAINS ARE ON HAND BUT THAT POSSIBLY ONE-THIRD MAY BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME BETTER ESTIMATE WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER VISIT OF FAO-SPONSORED EXPERT. STORAGE PRACTICES IN WAREHOUSES GENERALLY POOR. COMMODITIES ARE OFTEN PACKED WALL-TO-WALL (DUE VARIOUS FACTORS SUCH AS RAIN DURING UNLOADING, HEAVY ARRIVALS IN SHORT TIME PERIODS), SPOILED COMMODITIES OFTEN LEFT IN WAREHOUSES. EXTERIOR STORAGE AREAS (HOLDING ABOUT 1,000 M/T) APPEAR MUCH NEATER.

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APPROXIMATELY 1,400 M/T SORGHUM STORED IN AIRPORT HANGER AT SEGOU.

HOWEVER, HANGER LEAKS AND HENCE CANNOT BE USED DURING RAIGP SEASO.

ALSO SINCE ONE SIDE COMPLETELY EXPOSED TO SUN,
EXPOSED POLYPROPYLENE BAGS TEN TO BURST AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME
LOSS OF COMMODITY (IN THIS CASE CANADIAN SORGHUM).

3. MOPTI: OPANM WAREHOUSE IN MOPTI HAS CAPACITY OF ABOUT 3,500 M/T
ALTHOUGH DURING VISIT ONLY ABOUT 1,300 M/T OF CHINESE AND CAMBODIAN
RICE AND LOCAL SORGHUM ACTUALLY ON HAND. NEW WAREHOUSE (CAPACITY
4,000 M/T) UNDER CONSTRUCTION. OPAM-LEASED WAREHOUSE IN SAVARE
(CAPACITY 10,000 M/T) HELD ABOUT 6,000 M/T US SORGHUM, CHINESE,
PAKISTAN AND CAMBODIAN AND LOCAL RICE AND FED CORN. GRAIN SACKS
POORLY STACKED AND TWO WALLS OF BUILDING HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY
WEAKENED BY FALLING GRAINS.

4. CABLE RE OVERALL GRAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER CROP
YEAR BEING SENT SEPARATELY FROM BAMAKO.
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